ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides methods for predicting the likelihood of development of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in an individual, which comprise determining the sequence at one or more polymorphic positions within the human genes

5   encoding FcγRIIB. The invention also provides isolated nucleic acids encoding FcγRIIB polymorphisms, nucleic acid probes that hybridize to polymorphic positions and kits for the prediction of SLE status.